

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for trimming a plastic container having open end and a base, which comprises: providing a multi-station assembly for holding a container during trimming, wherein said assembly includes a plurality of spaced stations and wherein said container traverses stations of said multi-station assembly for operating stages; moving the container to be trimmed onto said multi-station assembly at a first operating stage; moving a knife into engagement with the container to be trimmed at a second operation stage; trimming said container by said knife at a third operating stage, with said container held stationary during trimming and with the knife moving around the container at the area to be trimmed; ejecting the trimmed portion at a fourth operating stage; and ejecting the trimmed container at a fifth operating stage; wherein the base of the container is supported during its traverse through the multi-station assembly, and the container is also held by a holder beneath the area to be trimmed to hold the container stationary during trimming, including camming, positioning and moving the knife and knife actuating arm by moving a roller on a tapered cam.

Claim 2 (original): A method according to claim 1 wherein said container to be trimmed is a blow molded container.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein the trimming operation in the second stage occupies a plurality of stations.

Claim 5 (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein separate stages are performed in the area of separate stations.

Claim 6 (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein the upper portion of the trimmed container has a finish portion, and wherein the outer diameter of the trimmed portion is no greater than the outer diameter of the finish portion.

Claim 7 (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein said method is a high speed operation for trimming at least 5,000 containers per hour.

Claim 8 (original): A method according to claim 7, including trimming at least 10,000 containers per hour.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method according to ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, wherein the container is held on a pedestal during its traverse through the multi-station assembly, ~~and by a holder beneath the area to be trimmed to hold the container stationary during trimming.~~

Claim 10 (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein the knife is cammed into engagement with the container to be trimmed.

Claims 11 – 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (new): A method according to claim 1, including an inlet wheel for holding a plurality of containers to be trimmed, and sequentially feeding the containers onto said multi-station assembly from said inlet wheel.

Claim 29 (new): A method according to claim 28, wherein the trimmed containers are ejected onto an outlet wheel.

Claim 30 (new): A method according to claim 1, including providing a final operating stage after the fifth operating stage for examination of components.

Claim 31 (new): A method according to claim 9, wherein the container is raised into the holder by the pedestal.

Claim 32 (new): A method according to claim 31, including the step of lifting the container into trimming position by raising the pedestal.

Claim 33 (new): A method according to claim 10, including moving the knife into trimming position by a knife actuating arm while the container is held stationary by said holder.

Claim 34 (new): A method according to claim 33, wherein the knife actuating arm moves downward and the knife is engaged with the container by camming.

Claim 35 (new): A method according to claim 34, including rotating the knife around the container during trimming by a cam, roller and knife actuating assembly.

Claim 36 (new): A method according to claim 1, including camming, positioning and moving the knife around the container in the trimming operation by a rotary cam, roller and knife actuating arm.

Claim 37 (new): A method according to claim 1, including the step of separating the trimmed portion from the trimmed container after the trimming operation and before ejecting the trimmed portion.

Claim 38 (new): A method according to claim 32, including the step of lowering the pedestal to a starting position after the trimming operation.

Claim 39 (new): A method according to claim 1, including holding the knife on a mounting plate and spring tensioner connected to the roller, wherein the spring tensioner is spaced from the axis of the tapered cam.

Claim 40 (new): A method according to claim 1, including moving the knife actuating arm downward and engaging the knife with the container to be trimmed by moving the roller on the cam.

Claim 41 (new): A method according to claim 1, including rotating the knife around the container during trimming by the cam, roller and knife actuating arm.